

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2367
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH MARCH, 2023**

BHARATNET SCHEME

2367. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to implement BharatNet scheme through Public-Private Partnership model in sixteen States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the reasons for exclusion of other States from the same; and
- (e) the details of the other measures proposed to be taken to improve the implementation of BharatNet scheme?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (d) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The Union Cabinet on 30.06.2021 accorded approval for a revised strategy for implementation of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States of the country covering about 3.61 lakh villages (including GPs). Global Bids were invited on 20.07.2021 for implementation under PPP model and opened on 27.01.2022, however, no response was received.

The scope of BharatNet project has recently been extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in all the States/UTs in the country with the completion timeline as 2025.

(e) In order to fast-track progress under the BharatNet project the following steps have inter-alia been taken:

- Strict monitoring of the project at various levels by Universal Service Obligation Fund, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/ Bharat Broadband Network Limited with implementing Agencies for speedy roll out of the project.
- Resolving all pending issues in expeditious manner.
- Revised strategy formulated for covering all GPs and villages for connecting on OFC, O&M and utilisation.
- A pilot project for rolling out 5 lakh FTTH connections to rural households has been launched in October 2022 and 1.95 lakh FTTH connections have been provided to rural households.
